

Message from the Associate Director for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

This 2000 Operational IT Plan, which is the U. S. Census Bureau's template for implementing our approved 1999 Strategic IT Plan's goals and objectives, has been developed with Bureau-wide input and coordination and has been reviewed and approved by our IT Review Board. Our strategic vision is beginning to take hold but we still have much to do. We will continue to implement a Strategic IT Plan that our customers, stakeholders, and employees understand and endorse as we provide the best technical support at the lowest possible cost.

The U. S. Census Bureau plays a major role in transforming the Department of Commerce into a "Digital Department" and into a national leader in the technology field. This Plan outlines our commitment and sense of urgency relative to that role, as well as the near-term investments we have identified to make that transformation happen as soon as possible. We put a great deal of effort into Appendix A of this Plan, which lays out our financial portfolio in terms of our baseline, ongoing projects, and new initiatives for Fiscal Year 2001.

Our business is information. As evidenced throughout our Plan, information technology plays a dynamic role in the U. S. Census Bureau's functions: collecting, processing, and disseminating information. The projects described in this Plan are very important to our business line and to our ability to continue implementing "Digital Department" activities.

A lot of hard work went into this document and the diligence of the program area representatives has produced an IT Plan that thoroughly explains and documents our IT activities. We will use this Plan throughout the U. S. Census Bureau to monitor and control IT activities and acquisitions as we implement our 1999 Strategic IT Plan. We encourage your thoughts and reactions to this Plan, and look for future contributions that you may have to enhance our use of technology in being the pre-eminent provider of information.